

THE BLASPHEMY OF AUSTIN 3:16

April 27, 2000 (Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org) - The following article is by Evangelist Rich Brown (rbrown9@ems.att.com) --

“And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.” (Rev 13:6)

With the bloody faces, background music, barbarian acts, and the backlash of cursing, professional wrestling has become one of the most vial soap operas on television. Handles such as The Demon, Sexual Chocolate, Mr. A_ _ , and the Undertaker are wicked and demonic names that are talked about daily. With those names in mind, there is none more synonymous with the sport of professional wrestling than Steve Austin, a.k.a. The Rattlesnake, Stonecold, and “the blasphemous” Austin 3:16.

In almost ten years of being in the ranks of professional wrestling, Steve Austin has literally taken wrestling and, yea, even the world by storm.

At the Teen Choice Awards Show, Stonecold walked away with several merits to his name. Included in the awards were “Best Hissy Fit” (is that not just wonderful for your kids to watch), “Hottie of the Year” (wonderful award to have standing in front of God on judgement day), and the prestigious “Favorite Wrestler” award. My intention, however, is not to account for the accolades that Steve Austin has won, but to expose the error of Austin 3:16 and professional wrestling with the truth of the Holy Bible. “Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness (2 Peter 2:18).

THE INFAMOUS AUSTIN 3:16

Some may ask why I would single out Steve Austin from the rest of the sport. It is not that I am in favor of the rest of the sport of wrestling, in fact, it is ungodly and wicked as hell-fire itself. I have many reasons for singling out Steve Austin; my first motive, however, for targeting Mr. Austin is the blasphemy of his world renown “Austin 3:16.” An excerpt from the mini-book “Eight Long [curse word] Years,” Steve Austin told Jake Roberts, and I quote, “You thump your Bible, talk about John 3:16, but Austin 3:16 says I just whipped you’re ---!” end of quote. To take one of the most precious verses of the Bible and selfishly slander our Lord and Savior is nothing more than BLASPHEMY.

THE INFLUENCE OF AUSTIN 3:16

A second reason for using Steve Austin as my focal point is the power and effect he has all over the world. As illustrated with the awards above, he, along with the other professional

wrestlers, has the attention of the children, the youth, and the teenagers alike. With the accessibility that television offers, wrestling can be watched by millions of people all over America, as well as the capacity-filled arenas that seat thousands. No doubt professional wrestling is a billion dollar a year business with the ratings sky-rocketing each week. With the promotions on television, in magazines, on shirts and other paraphernalia, Steve Austin and professional wrestling has become a very popular commodity. Because of this, the influence that wrestling has is manifested in the minds and hearts of our youth. A person is an influence whether they want to be or not, especially when young people try to imitate their favorite wrestling star or Nitro Girl.

THE INFIDELITY OF AUSTIN 3:16

Finally, I would like to point out the infidelity of Steve Austin and crew. When I speak of infidelity, I am not referring to Steve Austin as being unfaithful as a husband, instead, I am referring to him as being unfaithful as a role model. After reviewing many sources, including wrestling internet sites, I have found that Steve Austin, as well as the Divas and the rest of the world of wrestling, are unfaithful role models.

Infidelity is proven by the FOOLISH MORALS that are portrayed inside and outside of the ring. Many children are watching as these role models depict wrong as being right and right as being wrong. The foolish morals are illustrated by the alcohol that is commercialized when Steve Austin squeezes a can of beer in each hand and joyously consumes it. With this influence, the Bible says that he is cursed by an Almighty God (Habakkuk 2:15). The foolish morals are illustrated also by the antics that are presented when violence is an accepted way through fighting. First of all, I am not against fighting for the protection of your life or the lives of your family. Secondly, there is a difference between self-defense and “provoking to wrath,” as revealed with the violence among children in these latter times. “For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God” (James 1:20). Through this wrath, the influence of these stars are not working for the righteousness of God. Instead, they are promoting bitterness and hatred with malice which needs to be put away by the exposition of the word of God. “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you” (Eph 4:31-32).

Infidelity is also proven by the FILTHY MOUTH that is communicated between the wrestlers. A name such as Mr. A __ proves that inappropriate language is used by the world of wrestling. Who in their right mind would rather be called a barnyard animal than a human being anyway? I will explain, the latter part of the Matthew 12:34 states “...out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh,” and with the wickedness that is coming from their mouth it is safe to say that there is wickedness in their heart. To strengthen my stand, 1 Corinthians 15:33 and Proverbs 10:6 declares that “evil communication will corrupt good manners” and “violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.” Furthermore, the

only way to “minister grace unto the hearers” is to “put off filthy communication out of your mouth” (Ephesians 4:29 and Colossians 3:8). Yet, what do you expect from someone who proceeds to use parts of a persons anatomy in the same sentence as Bible and John 3:16.

Last but not least, infidelity is proven time and time again by the FEW MATERIALS that are demonstrated by each contestant in the ring. Some-times I wonder if it is a wrestling contest or swimsuit competition. The participants barely wear enough material to make a union-suit for an ant. Then society wonders why there are so many perverts in the world. The women and men alike prance around exhibiting private parts of their body that should only be displayed in the privacy of their homes to their respected mate. Furthermore, it is as much an abomination for a man to go without his shirt as it is for a woman to go without a shirt. Despite the approval of the world and the exploitation of the media, it is still a “shame” for a person to show the flesh of their body (Rev 3:18, 16:15). The Bible still teaches that a woman should dress in “modest apparel” (1 Tim 2:9-10) and that a man should never have “long hair” (1 Cor 11:13-15). Also remember, after Jesus saved the crazy man of Gadara, the Bible said that he was “clothed and in his right mind.” What most of these wrestlers need and yea even the world, is a good dose of Holy Ghost salvation.

THE INFINITE LOVE OF GOD

John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life. The love that God has for man originates solely by God’s sovereign will. He loves people because He chooses to love them, not because we in any way deserve His love. Man’s salvation begins with this love of God, and that is found on the cross at Calvary. The love is such a characteristic of His nature that the Bible declares that “God is love.” Everything that God says or does is in some way an expression of His love (1 John 4:8,16). God’s gift of His son is the guarantee of his immeasurable and everlasting love.

Regardless of the immorality of the WWE, WCW, etc., God still wants to forgive the sinner. However, because He is a Holy and just God of love, He cannot treat sin as if it does not matter. God has such love for what is right that He reacts in righteous anger against all that is wrong. God’s wrath is the outcome of His love. It was proven by the wrath which was poured out on our precious Lord Jesus Christ for the sins of the world (Isaiah 53:3-12).

THE INFLAMMATORY JUDGING BY THE AUTHOR

Most people will ask me why I am so judgmental toward these people. Before I continue, I would like to add that I am not bitter against the wrestlers. I am angry (Ephesians 4:26) at sin, as well as, the Devil. Yet , I still have an obligation to expose and judge the iniquity of society, “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Ephesians 5:11). A careful study of the Bible makes it clear that it is not only right but a command to judge. The scripture proves it continually and accurately by the voice of

Jesus, "...judge what is right" (Luke 12:57), and "Judge righteous judgment" (John 7:24). Also, the voice of the Apostle Paul, "Prove all things" (1 Thessalonians 5:21), and again, "He that is spiritual judgeth all things" (1 Corinthians 2:15). Jesus also said "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them" (Matthew 7:20). So, how are we to know their fruits if we do not judge them by the scripture?

"Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord" (2 Corinthians 6:17), "From such turn away" (2 Timothy 3:5), "Withdraw yourselves" (2 Thessalonians 3:6), "Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good" (Romans 12:9). It would be impossible to obey the instructions of God's word unless it were right to judge. In conclusion, I would like to encourage you to take a stand against worldly behavior. I have proven that we as Christians should be a separate and holy people. Let's keep the television, radio, movie theaters, and other worldly influences away from our children. It is our responsibility as parents to discern right from wrong for our young ones.

God Bless all, Brother Rick Brown.

DISCLAIMER: Thanks to World's Bible Dictionary for the passages on the love of God. Also, to the late Franklin Huling for the passages on "Judging." If you agree with my stance and would like to contact me for booking information, my e-mail address is rbrown9@ems.att.com. If you disagree with my stance and would like to contact me for beating information, my address and phone numbers are not listed.